

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-09
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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, IR
SUBJ: SHAKE UP AT NIOC

1. A RECENT SPATE OF RUMORS ABOUT THE IMMINENT DEPARTURE OF HUSHANG ANSARY AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD AND GENERAL MANAGING DIRECTOR OF NIOC WAS GIVEN A SETBACK YESTERDAY WITH THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF SWEEPING CHANGES AT NIOC, WHICH, IF ANYTHING, SEEM TO SOLIDIFY ANSARY'S HAND.

2. THE PRESENT TOP HIERARCHY IS AS FOLLOWS: FAROUKH NAJMABADI WAS RETAINED AS DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR TECHNICAL AFFAIRS; MAJID TABATABAI DIBA WAS APPOINTED DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERICAL AFFAIRS, REPLACING HASSAN ALI MEHRAN (DIBA'S PREVIOUS POSITION WAS NIOC DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION); ABBAS FALLAH WAS NAMED DIRECTOR FOR CORPORATE PLANNING (FALLAH HAD BEEN DIRECTOR FOR REFINING); ABBASGHOLI BAKHTIAR, AN ANSARY PROTEGE FROM MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND FINANCE WAS NAMED DIRECTOR FOR ENGINEERING WHICH IS A NEW POSITION AT THE DIRECTOR LEVEL; MOHAMMAD ALI MOVAHED WAS PROMOTED FROM ALTERNATE DIRECTOR FOR LEGAL AFFAIRS TO DIRECTOR WITH THE SAME
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BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES; KARIM NEZHAND, REPORTEDLY AN OLD CLASSMATE OF ANSARY, WAS PROMOTED FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER LEVEL TO DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION; JAHANGIR RAOUFI, A COMPETENT PETROLEUM ENGINEER WHO WAS UNTIL YESTERDAY DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR OF OSCO, WAS NAMED DIRECTOR FOR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION; KAYVAN NARAGHI WAS PROMOTED FROM ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBER

AND CHIEF OF LOCAL SALES AND DISTRIBUTION TO DIRECTOR FOR
LOCAL DISTRIBUTION; ALI ASHGAR IRANI, FORMERLY HEAD

OF THE ABADAN REFINERY, WAS APPOINTED DIRECTOR FOR
REFINING.

3. FOUR ALTERNATE DIRECTORS WERE NAMED AND THEY ARE:
FAKHR NOORI, CHIEF OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (NO CHANGE);
MASOUD MODIR, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS (NO CHANGE); AMIR BADAQSHAN, CHIEF OF RESEARCH
AND ENERGY RESOURCES (NEW TITLE ONLY); AND HASSAN
MOSTAFAVI KASHANI, HEAD OF COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS (A NEW
POSITION).

4. THE CHANGES OUTLINED ABOVE HAVE RESULTED IN THE
FORCED RETIREMENT OF (A) HADI ENTEHABI, THE FORMER
DIRECTOR FOR CORPORATE PLANNING WHO HAD BEEN A CLOSE
FRIEND OF ANSARY'S PREDECESSOR, EGHBAL, AND (B)
ALI-ASHGAR RAFIEE, THE FORMER DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT
SERVICES AND NON-BASIC OPERATIONS WHO HAD TRIED TO
RESIGN EARLIER THIS YEAR. MESBAH JALINOOS, THE
FORMER DIRECTOR FOR LOCAL SALES AND DISTRIBUTION WHO
HAD BEEN PUBLICALLY CHARGED WITH MIS-
MANAGEMENT DURING HIS TENURE AS HEAD OF THE PUBLIC
ELECTRIC UTILITY, TAVANIR, WAS IN EFFECT FIRED,
SINCE HE DID NOT QUALIFY FOR RETIREMENT.
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5. MORE CHANGES ARE EXPECTED. NIOC'S CORPORATE
CHARTER AUTHORIZES FIVE ALTERNATE DIRECTORS AND ONLY
FOUR WERE NAMED, AND CHANGES AT THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR
LEVEL ARE PREDICTED. WE WILL REPORT MORE FULLY ON THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SHAKE-UP AS SOON AS THE DUST
HAS SETTLED.
SULLIVAN

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